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Galileo looks for sign of life on Europa

PASADENA, Calif. - The Galileo spacecraft swooped within 124 miles of Jupiter's frozen moon Europa, getting its closest look at a planetary body that scientists believe may harbor life. Europa has become a major target for exploration because its icy surface is likely concealing two elements needed to support life: water and heat. Scientists will have to wait a few weeks to get the latest pictures snapped by Galileo, but instruments recently detected signs of magnesium salts that bolstered the belief that an ocean could be under Europa's cracked-ice surface.

- [Full story](#)
- [Galileo Web site](#)

Planes search for meteor in Greenland

COPENHAGEN, Denmark - Danish Air Force planes are searching snow-covered southern Greenland for traces of a meteor believed to have struck the island on Dec. 9. Around 5 a.m., three fishermen working off the east coast saw a giant flash in the dark sky. A parking lot surveillance camera on the west coast picked up the same phenomenon. Astronomers say there's a good chance it was a giant meteor, but heavy snowfall may have already covered it and its crater.

- [Full story](#)

The race to save the tiger from extinction

Powdered tiger bone has been used for thousands of years in traditional East Asian medicine as a treatment for arthritis. Demand for it today, and for other tiger body parts, threatens to destroy the world's remaining wild tigers. A conference is being held this week with practitioners of traditional Chinese medicine to discuss alternatives to tiger-based products and help preserve the species. Where there were once over 100,000 tigers in the wild, only 5,000 to 7,000 remain worldwide.

- [Full story](#)
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